

Appl. No. 09/964,509
Amdt. Dated: June 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: 12/03/2003

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated the allowability of a number of claims as set out in section 7 of the Office Action provided they are written in independent form incorporating the limitations of any claim upon which they depend.

In response to the Action, the Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to incorporate the subject of claims 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Claim 1 as amended therefore incorporates each of the limitations found in claims 2 through 6 and accordingly is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 7, 8, and 9 have been made dependent upon claim 1 and the balance of the remaining method claims depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 1.

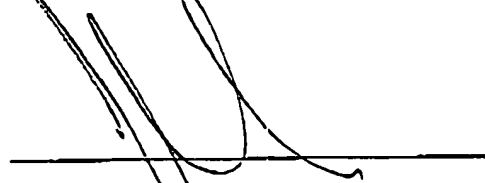
Similarly with respect to the apparatus claims, the Examiner has indicated claim 42 would be allowable and accordingly claim 41 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 42. The balance of the apparatus claims depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 41 and as such are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

A minor typographical amendment has been made to claim 55 which was directed to a method although dependent upon claim 41 which is directed to a component.

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The Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the cancelled claims in a continuing application that may be filed during the pendency of the present application. Further consideration of action to allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John R.S. Orange', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'J' and 'O'.

John R.S. Orange
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Date: May 31, 2004

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